

Geldof plays Dubai gig for aid

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International rock star and anti-poverty campaigner Bob Geldof is set to perform in Dubai next week to help raise funds for destitute children in Sierra Leone.

The Irish-born musician will perform on November 21 at a private fundraising dinner themed "An Evening for

Africa with Bob Geldof" at Habtoor Grand Resort and Spa sponsored by Air Miles.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to All As One, a charity group with an office in Dubai that caters for orphans and children in need in Sierra Leone.

"Bob Geldof is one of the most internationally recognised campaigners for African humanitarian development [and his] presence will give a

lot of meaning to our ongoing fundraising campaign," said Matthew Morgan-Jones, country director for All As One.

And this is not Geldof's first goodwill visit to Dubai. Last year he held a concert to raise awareness about the problem of poverty in Africa.

All As One is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Sierra Leone whose Dubai branch opened in 2005 to raise funds for its children's centre.

Since 1997, the NGO has been instrumental in responding to the critical dilemma of orphaned, abandoned, disabled, abused or destitute children in the African nation.

Dubai residents have already contributed more than Dh100,000 to the cause through various fundraising drives organised by All As One.

One of the charity's pilot programmes, the Children's Centre, provides care for or-

phaned and abandoned children in Sierra Leone, which has recently emerged from years of civil conflict.

All As One is currently raising funds to set up a permanent home for the centre after the group received a December eviction notice from the current landlord.

Meanwhile, the group is working to meet the educational needs of the children and the All As One Medical

Clinic helps to keep Sierra Leonean children and families healthy, by providing preventative intervention and medical treatment when needed.

Recently, the All As One Centre received a 20-foot container of nappies donated by Dubai residents.

The nappies collection drive was organised by Choithram supermarket, which set up collection centres at 12 of its outlets in the emirate.